

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 306

By Bailey

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the members of the Upper Cumberland Forestry Association upon being named the 2014 County Forestry Association of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those outstanding citizens of our State who have committed themselves to sustaining the renewable natural resources of Tennessee in a manner that provides economic enrichment while preserving valuable resources and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, such dedicated conservationists comprise the membership of the Upper Cumberland Forestry Association (UCFA), which was recently named the 2014 County Forestry Association of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Forestry Association (TFA) is an organization which provides coordination and direct assistance to the State's county and multi-county forestry groups, and has provided its guidance since 1998. The TFA has been awarding regional or county forestry association awards since 2000; and

WHEREAS, the UCFA promotes best management practices, opportunities, programs, and special resources to increase landowner profits and productivity while protecting investments through cost sharing and marketing initiatives, and emphasizes the resources which would be of greatest help to its members; and

WHEREAS, the UCFA is the only regional association, and the largest multi-county group, in Tennessee, and it is currently under the astute leadership and guidance of association president Michael Self; and

WHEREAS, the UCFA operates under the authority of a nine-member board, the members of which serve three-year terms, and the Upper Cumberland Forestry Association

serves Putnam, Jackson, White, and DeKalb counties, as well as parts of Cumberland, Overton, Smith, and Clay counties, and holds a current membership of around 105 families; and

WHEREAS, the board and active membership of the UCFA is comprised of professional foresters, loggers, industrial representatives, livestock farmers, school teachers, and a number of other interested individuals, and it also includes the TDF, TFA, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the USDA's National Resources Conservation Service, and the Tennessee Forest Legacy Program; and

WHEREAS, through its outreach programs, the UCFA seeks to involve students from the University of Tennessee and Tennessee Technological University, and the association is keen to provide guidance to any of Tennessee's youth wishing to pursue a career in forestry; and

WHEREAS, successfully balancing their great concern for economic needs and environmental stewardship, the members of this association are the fitting recipients of the 2014 County Forestry Association of the Year award, and it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to honor this outstanding organization; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the members of the Upper Cumberland Forestry Association upon being named the 2014 County Forestry Association of the Year, thank them for their dedicated and thorough understanding of our State's precious renewable resources, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in making a positive impact on the forestland and wildlife habitat across Tennessee for years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.